

WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Interim Report for the year endingDecember 31st 1939, by theMedical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an Interim Report on the Health of the District for the year 1939.

The year ending 31st December, 1939 can scarcely be considered a normal health year, from a Local Government point of view.

We were under war conditions for ^{months} four of it, and this Council has had to undertake and develop fresh activities, arising out of the new conditions, and to allow to lapse for a time, other activities which could not be carried out by a community during a state of war.

An influx of new population took place as part of the London Evacuation Scheme, and at one time we had 2500 fresh people to accommodate and cater for. These people brought to the area some infectious diseases mainly in the form of skin affections and infestation which were dealt with, but there was no increase in the incidence of serious infectious illness - in fact a decrease took place - there being 21 cases of Scarlet Fever in the year ending 31st December, 1939 as against 26 for the previous year. There was only one case of diphtheria during the whole year. I am of opinion that, taking into consideration the accommodation available and the number of Evacuees received into the area, our record of comparative freedom from infectious illness, is a matter for congratulation. The promptitude of the service given by the New Isolation Hospital has been of great help to me, and I have much appreciated the co-operation and help of the practitioners in the area, in the prompt notification of cases, and in their courteous replies to queries.

A considerable strain has been thrown on the Inspectorial Staff by war conditions; A.R.P., Evacuees, and additional meat inspection work have claimed much of their time, but I can assure this Council that no essential Sanitary Service has been neglected, in spite of their added duties.

Our new water supply undertaking has had to progress more slowly than it would have done under peace conditions, but it is proceeding and will, I hope, continue and gain speed.

I think I may congratulate this Council on a successful year in spite of adverse conditions, and its members and officers, on their willingness to shoulder a multitude of new difficulties and responsibilities without grudge or grumble.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. Wilson M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

9th September, 1940.

